

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Michael A. Epstein

Serial No.: 08/994,878

Filed: 12/19/97

Title: ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION OF PRIVATE KEYS IN A NETWORKED ENVIRONMENT

Atty. Docket No.: PHA 23-313

Group Art Unit: 2131

Examiner: Hosuk Song

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231Amendment/Reply to Office Action

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply in the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated 23 April 2002.

Please cancel claims 1-2, 11-16, and 19.

REMARKS

Claims 5-8 remain pending in this application.

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Trostle (USP 5,919,257) in view of Asay et al. (USP 5,903,882, hereinafter Asay). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, based on the remarks submitted in the Applicant's Appeal Brief that was filed on 22 October 2001, and based on the following remarks.

The Applicant teaches and claims a security system that is particularly well suited for use in a networked environment wherein terminals are ubiquitous, and not necessarily associated with specific users. This paradigm is similar to the distribution and use of telephones in common areas of an office environment. Common-use telephones are typically provided in conference rooms, reception areas, and so on. In like manner, common-use computer terminals can be expected to be provided throughout an office environment.